THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Japan nave pledged to provide loan for the following projects :—

1. Srisailam Left Bank Hydro-Power Station Project (Stage-II).

2. Srisailam Power Transmission System Project (Stage-II).

3. Assam Gas Power Station and Transmission Line Construction Project (Stage-III).

4. Bakreswar Thermal Power Station Extension Project.

5. Purulia Pumped Storage Scheme Project.

6. Life Extension of Kothagudem A Thermal Power Station Project.

7. Four-Laning of National Highway No. 5 Project (Stage-II).

8. Four-Laning of National Highway No. 24 Project.

9. Madras Water and Sewage System Project.

10. Conservation of Upper and Lower Lakes of Bhopal Project.

11. Industrial Pollution Control Project.

12. Rajasthan Afforestation Project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Projects at Sl. Nos. 1 to 4 are ongoing and the loan pledged for each project is Yen 22.567, 9.546, 15.821 and 8.659 Billion respectively.

(e) The total amount pledged for 1994-95 package is Yen 125.765 Billion.

Relaxation of bank loans against sahres

1927. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have removed some existing ceiling on Bank loans against Shares;

(b) if so, details thereof with categories of people benefited with the relaxation;

(c) whether such relaxation will help Government and the individual in any way;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to provide some similar benefits to common share-holders; and

(f) if so, the details trereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (f) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relaxed certain conditions on which loans can be granted against shares and debentures to individuals. These loans were subjected to a minimum margin of 75 per cent. However, effffective from 8th Aprial, 1993 the margin has bten reduced to 50 per cent. The stipulation that banks should enusre that there is no increase effective October 8, 1991 in the credit outstanding to individuals against shares and debentures/bonds has been withdrawn. These relaxations are applicable to common share-holders also The limit of Rs 5 lakhs per individual for advances against shares and debentures/bonds, however, continues. As per the extant guidelines of RBI, advances against the security of shares and debentures can be sanctioned by a bank to individuals upto Rs. 5 lakhs for subscribing to rights or new issues and also for purchase of shares/debentures in the secondary market. Bridge loans against existing shares/debentures can also be sanctioned to investment companies and trusts and endowments for a maximum period of 9 months for investments in shares and debentures. While a monetary ceiling of Rs. 5 lakhs has been prescribed for sanction of such loans to trusts and endowments, no such ceiling has been fixed for investment companies.

Depository systems for Stock Exchanges

1928. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India has suggested some Depository systems for the Stock Exchanges in the country;